



## Borough of Aylesbury

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

For the Year 1941

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J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,  
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Barrister at Law,  
Medical Officer of Health.

ALFRED LEE, A.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.,  
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE.

- Councillor T. Goodchild (Chairman).  
Councillor Mrs. Paterson (The Mayor).  
Alderman J. J. Evett (Deputy Mayor).  
„ P. R. Eaton.  
„ G. J. Thrasher, O.B.E., J.P.,  
Councillor Mrs. Coventon, M.B.E.  
„ F. B. Howard.  
„ W. Johnson.  
„ E. S. Mackrill.  
„ A. West.
- 

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,  
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Barrister at Law.

### SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Alfred Lee, A.R.San I., F.S.I.A.,  
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

W. Ewart Ruse, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

### CLERICAL STAFF.

Dennis W. Rixon.  
Douglas A. Keen (from 24th March, 1941).

# Borough of Aylesbury

Public Health Department.

Town Hall,

AYLESBURY

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aylesbury.**

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health of the Borough, together with the vital statistics for the year 1941.

The general standard of health in the district has remained at a high level.

The accommodation at the Aylesbury Joint Hospital which serves the district for the isolation and treatment of infectious disease has been increased from forty-five to sixty-nine beds. Laboratory services are provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, and at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Six cases of anterior poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough during the year and were confirmed on admission to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths, remedial treatment in these cases was continued at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Of the five cases of meningitis admitted to hospital, there was one death due to tubercular meningitis confirmed by post mortem examination. Sixty-eight cases of scarlet fever were treated at hospital during the year, and ten cases of diphtheria, there were no deaths.

The response to the offer of diphtheria immunisation at schools and clinics has been most encouraging throughout the district. Eight hundred and forty-six school children and four hundred and forty-nine under school age have been immunised within the Borough during the year. One case of diphtheria occurred in the Borough in a child who had been previously immunised against the disease. Despite the fact that the case was of a severe "gravis" type, the boy made a complete recovery. There was one case of typhoid and one of dysentery reported.

Facilities for the nursing and treatment of minor contagious diseases and ailments continue to be provided by the two Sick Bay hostels serving the district.

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to the officials of the Borough and the school teachers of the town, for their invaluable assistance.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	3,288 acres.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941 according to Rate Books) .....	4,697
Rateable Value .....	£131,785
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£518

*Unemployment:*

At December 31st, 1941:— At December 31st, 1940:—

1 woman	236 women
3 men	98 men
<hr/> 4 Total.	<hr/> 334 Total
<hr/>	<hr/>

*Vital Statistics.*

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate .....		272	131	141
Illegitimate .....		14	4	10
Still Births—Legitimate .....		5	3	2
Illegitimate .....		0	0	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1941 .....				13.23
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.....				13.47
		Total.	M.	F.
Deaths .....		223	104	119
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population.....				10.32

Rate per 1,000 total

Deaths. (live and still) births.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal sepsis .....	0	0
Other puerperal causes .....	1	3.44

		Total.	M.	F.
Deaths of infants under one year of age:—				
Legitimate .....		12	7	5
Illegitimate .....		1	0	1
Totals .....		13	7	6

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	40.74
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	39.60
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	62.50

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	41	17	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	0	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	1	0	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	0	0	0

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### *Pathological Specimens.*

Pathological Specimens are examined at:—

1. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, South Parks Road, Oxford,
2. The Institute of Pathology, Halton (Air-Commodore H. E. Whittingham, C.B.E.), until Dec. 1st, 1941, and
3. The Stoke Mandeville Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Aylesbury, since 1st December, 1941.

### *Voluntary Hospital.*

The town is excellently served by the Royal Bucks Hospital (115 beds), which is centrally situated in the County and Borough. There is a commodious out-patients' department fitted with modern equipment attached to the hospital.

### *Ambulance Services of the Borough.*

The St. John Ambulance Brigade maintain three ambulances for dealing with accident and other cases. The ambulance services of the Borough are quite adequate.

### *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

The Infant Welfare Centre, situated in Church Row, is under the control of the Bucks County Council and is open as an Infant Welfare Clinic every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The premises are also used as a dental clinic for children of school age.

### *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

Diphtheria immunisation has continued to be carried out on a large scale during the year. Eight hundred and forty-six school-children have been inoculated at their respective schools in the Borough; four hundred and forty-nine children under the age of five have been immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre.

### *Government Sick Bays.*

The Sick Bay at No. 9, Bicester Road, admitted one hundred and twenty-eight patients, suffering from minor ailments occurring among evacuees, during the year.

One hundred and fifty-three patients were admitted to the Rural District Sick Bay at Waddesdon Institute.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### *Water Supply.*

The Borough comes wholly within the area served by the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company.

Samples of water for analysis are taken from different areas in the Borough each month and submitted to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, for examination, the result being reported to the Health Committee. All samples were found to be of a high degree of bacterial and organic purity, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The gathering ground, well isolated from habitations, and situated on the Chiltern Hills, continues to produce an excellent supply.

### *Closet Accommodation.*

No closets on the conservancy system exist in the town, all existing closets are water flushed.

### *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is on the partially separate system, surface water from streets and buildings being discharged to water-courses at various points. Owing to the differences in level, four localities are provided with pumping stations to lift the sewage into the main sewers. These are situated at Mandeville Road, Buckingham Road, California, and Tring Road.

### *Sewage Disposal.*

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated near the boundary of the town, continues to function satisfactorily.

### *Public Conveniences.*

The supervision of these conveniences is under the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The town is well served by the conveniences for both sexes under the island in Kingsbury Square, used as a centre for omnibus services, and also at the Vale Ground, High Street; there is a Gentlemen's Convenience adjoining the Cattle Market. Temporary urinals were erected in Upper Hundreds and Walton Road during the year.

### *Public Cleansing.*

This has proceeded in a satisfactory manner.



### *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

Inspections made under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Slaughterhouses .....	909
Butchers' Shops .....	163
Food Shops .....	1,226
Dairies and Cowsheds .....	176
Bakehouses .....	70
Infected House Visits .....	77
Smoke Observations .....	11

### *Open Air Swimming Pool, Park Street.*

The purification of the water in the open air swimming Pool continues to be satisfactory.

### *Indoor Swimming Bath, Bourbon Street.*

These premises have only been used for slipper baths during the year.

### *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

Eighty-six rooms have been disinfested against bed bugs; "Cimex" gas blocks and "Zaldecide" insecticide being used successfully.

### *Schools.*

The general sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools in the Borough is good, and the water supply is sufficient.

### *Local Rainfall.*

January .....	2.00 inches	July .....	4.92 inches
February .....	1.86 "	August .....	3.49 "
March .....	2.48 "	September ...	0.27 "
April .....	1.96 "	October .....	1.23 "
May .....	2.02 "	November .....	2.26 "
June .....	1.33 "	December .....	1.28 "

Total rainfall for the year = 25.10 inches.

(Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Surveyor).

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### *(a) Milk Supply.*

Pasteurisation is carried out on a large scale at Messrs. Nestle's and the Aylesbury Co-operative Society's premises. Numerous samples were taken during the year to ensure that the plants were working satisfactorily.

The following milk retailers are licensed to sell 'Tuberculin Tested' and 'Pasteurised' milk in the Borough:—

*"Tuberculin Tested."*

1. Mr. R. Larchbury, Hadley Herd Dairies, Hartwell.
2. Messrs. J. Lisley & Son, Tring Road, Aylesbury.
3. Mr. F. J. Davis (Junior), "Homefield," Birtton.
4. Mr. R. S. Pearce, Marsh Road, Stoke Mandeville.

*"Pasteurised."*

1. Mr. S. W. Walker, Burcott Lane, Birtton.

*(b) Meat and Other Foods.*

*Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Cattle excluding Cows.		Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed .....	1,750	749	5,042	11,434	250	
Number inspected .....	1,750	749	5,042	11,434	250	
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	7	13	3	62	3	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	389	240	8	400	22	
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.63%	29.76%	0.22%	4.04%	10.0%	
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	17	36	4	0	10	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	223	212	0	0	12	
Percentage of the num- ber inspected with tuberculosis	13.71%	33.11%	0.08%	—	8.8%	

The total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year was 30 Tons, 8 Cwts., 2 Quarters, 1 Stone, 4 lbs.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Details are given below of the infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles .....	376	20	0
Whooping Cough .....	140	10	1
Scarlet Fever .....	73	68	0
Pneumonia .....	22	0	11



Puerperal Pyrexia .....	12	0	0
Erysipelas .....	11	4	0
Diphtheria .....	10	10	0
Cerebro-spinal meningitis .....	9	5	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis .....	6	6	0
Dysentery .....	1	1	0
Para-typhoid .....	1	0	0
Typhoid .....	1	0	0

*Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with  
Analysis under Age Groups.*

	0—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	TOTALS.
Measles .....	7	31	33	41	39	159	39	18	7	1	1	0	376
Whooping Cough...	12	13	10	29	24	44	1	1	4	1	0	1	140
Scarlet Fever .....	1	2	1	7	3	30	9	6	12	2	0	0	73
Pneumonia .....	0	0	0	2	1	3	3	1	6	2	3	1	22
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	3	0	0	12
Erysipelas .....	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	11
Diphtheria .....	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	2	0	1	0	10
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	9
Dysentery .....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Para-typhoid .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Typhoid .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Seventy-seven visits were made to infected premises.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 — .....	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
5 — .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 — .....	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	0
25 — .....	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0
35 — .....	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
45 — .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 — .....	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS ...	5	6	2	2	5	8	2	0

## FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, visits have been made to mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces, and informal action, taken where necessary to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts.

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

#### 1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power...	192	5	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power			
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	192	5	Nil.

#### 2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS.	Found.	Remedied.	Number of defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	In respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1)	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) .....	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3) .....	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) .....	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6) .....	0	0	0	0
<i>Sanitary Conveniences:—</i> (Sec. 7)				
Insufficient .....	2	2	0	0
Unsuitable or defective .....	0	0	0	0
Not separate for sexes .....	0	0	0	0
Other offences .....	3	3	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	5	5	0	0

#### *Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.*

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of outworkers' premises.



Borough of Aylesbury



# ANNUAL REPORT

*OF THE*

Borough Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1941

# Borough of Aylesbury.

*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Aylesbury.*

January, 1942.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

This, my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1941, is the Thirty-third Annual Report it has been my privilege to submit.

## NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYELAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated .....	21
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint .....	59
Nuisances, etc., abated .....	68
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts..	Nil
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts ..	84
Prosecutions .....	Nil

For the Thirty-third year in succession no prosecution against a property owner has been recorded and bearing in mind the congested state of the Borough at the present time I suggest the twenty-one complaints received of nuisances is a wonderful tribute to the conditions existing in the Borough.

## HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts was as follows :—

Dairies and Cowsheds .....	176
Bakehouses .....	70
Butchers' Shops .....	163
Slaughterhouses .....	909
Food Shops .....	1,226
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order.....	16
Infected House Visits (Excluding Tuberculosis Cases)....	77
Marine Stores .....	19
Smoke Observations .....	11
Miscellaneous Visits.....	320

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2,987

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## HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The ordinary routine work under this Act has had to be abandoned during the year on account of the many necessary divergent duties caused by the War ; inspection of billets, assistance in billeting, and other duties apparent as this report develops.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Six hundred and seventy-eight notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, as follows :—

Measles .....	376
Whooping Cough .....	140
Scarlet Fever.....	73
Pneumonia .....	22
Tuberculosis .....	15
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	12
Erysipelas .....	11
Diphtheria.....	11
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	9
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis .....	6
Typhoid.....	1
Dysentery .....	1
Para-typhoid.....	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	0
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	0

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678

Rooms disinfected .....	2
Visits to infected premises .....	77

## DISINFESTATION.

During the year 86 rooms have been sprayed or gassed against vermin.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the register requiring visiting ..	55
Non-mechanical factories on the register requiring visiting .....	81
Visits paid to factories .....	192

During the year Mechanical Factories have increased from 51 to 55. Every attention and assistance possible has been rendered to the owners of new works.

## PREMISES ON THE REGISTER REQUIRING VISITING

Bakchouses .....	12
Dairies .....	16
Cowsheds .....	12
	<hr/>
	40
Visits paid to Bakchouses .....	70
Visits paid to Cowsheds and Dairies.....	176
	<hr/>
	246

NOTICES SERVED *re* CLEANSING, WATER SUPPLY, Etc.

Cowsheds and Dairies .....	56
Bakchouses .....	24
Factories and Workplaces .....	5
	<hr/>
	85

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Three Cowkeepers within the Borough are licenced by the County Council as producers of "Accredited" milk. Another Cowkeeper is licenced by the County Council to produce "Tuberculin-Tested" milk.

Two dairies hold "Pasteuriser's" licences, three milk purveyors are licenced to retail "Tuberculin-Tested" milk, one to retail "Pasteurised" milk, and another purveyor is licenced to bottle and retail "Tuberculin-Tested" milk. These licences are issued by the Borough Council.

Seven samples of milk were taken during the year, all of which were proved good.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouse Inspections .....	909
Butchers' Shops Inspections .....	163
Food Shops Inspections .....	1,226

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows:

	<i>Bulls.</i>	<i>Steers.</i>	<i>Hfrs.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Clvs.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Gts.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st Qtr.	24	321	174	194	2,099	2,833	32	0	5,677
2nd Qtr.	18	272	123	130	1,296	2,040	56	0	3,935
3rd Qtr.	13	159	214	271	763	3,486	103	0	5,009
4th Qtr.	6	212	214	154	884	3,075	59	1	4,605
Total	61	964	725	749	5,042	11,434	250	1	19,226



The number of carcasses examined was as follows:—

	<i>Killed.</i>	<i>Examined.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
Bulls .....	61	61	100%
Steers .....	964	964	100%
Heifers .....	725	725	100%
Cows .....	749	749	100%
Calves.....	5,042	5,042	100%
Sheep .....	11,434	11,434	100%
Pigs.....	250	250	100%
Goats .....	1	1	100%
Total .....	19,226	19,226	100%

The following unsound food was surrendered during 1941:—

Cow Beef .....	21,532 lbs.
Cow Offals.....	12,999 „
Other Beef.....	11,757 „
Other Bovine Offals.....	12,444 „
Pork .....	1,513 „
Pork Offals .....	299 „
Mutton .....	2,811 „
Mutton Offals .....	1,370 „
Veal .....	411 „
Miscellaneous .....	3,034 „
	<u>68,170 lbs.</u>

Total: 30 Tons, 8 Cwts., 2 Quarters, 1 Stone, 4 lbs.

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle excluding cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed.....	1,750	749	5,042	11,434	250
Number Inspected ....	1,750	749	5,042	11,434	250
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole Carcases Con- demned .....	7	13	3	62	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	389	210	8	400	22
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	22.63%	29.76%	0.22%	4.04%	10.0%

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows. Calves. cows.</i>		<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned .....	17	36	4	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	223	212	0	0
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	13.71%	33.11%	0.079%	—
				8.8%

Centralised slaughter of animals is carried out under Government control.

For the time being all slaughterhouse licences except those premises under Government control have been suspended. The annual licences for slaughtermen of course continue.

#### PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of petroleum spirit .....	67
Licences issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium ..	7
Total fees received for the above licences .....	£51 10s. 0d.
<i>Quantity licenced to be kept :</i>	
Petroleum Spirit .....	130,334 gallons.
Carbide of Calcium .....	1,840 lbs.
Inspection of Petrol and Carbide Stores .....	13

#### CANAL BOATS ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

Boats Inspected .....	24
Notices Served .....	1

#### SHOPS ACTS.

The Shops Acts are at the time of writing in a state of chaos and likely to remain so until the end of hostilities, but many matters arising from them have been dealt with during the year.

Twenty-nine visits were made during the year.

#### PUBLIC LAVATORIES.

The Public Lavatories at the Vale Ground, including those for the children, have been transferred to this Department during the year. They have all been kept under strict supervision with a critical eye upon expenditure. Two urinals, one at Upper

Hundreds, the other at Walton, have also been erected and taken over by the Department.

Eighty-two visits have been made during the year.

### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Good work has been carried out under this Act and many places cleared of the pests.

The number of visits paid to premises infested with rats and mice was fifty-five.

This report has for reasons of economy been made as brief as possible, only salient matters having been dealt with. It in no way shows the many ramifications of the Department's work which even in normal times is hardly possible.

I would place on record the great help given me by my Assistant, Mr. W. E. Ruse, whose whole-hearted assistance and capable handling of all matters entrusted to him have earned my thanks and admiration. D. W. Rixon has also put in excellent and intelligent work but I fear he will soon be called up for service. D. Keen, the Junior Clerk, is showing good promise.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

**ALFRED LEE, F.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.,**

*Borough Sanitary Inspector*

